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GRANTS FOR PREVENTION OF MENTAL RETARDATION

In signing the new Maternal and Child Health and Mental Retardation Planning Amendments of 1963 (P.L. 88-156) on October 24, President Kennedy called this new act "an important landmark in our drive to eliminate one of the major health hazards affecting mankind." The act (which was passed by Congress as HR 7544) amends the Social Security Act by authorizing a five-point grant program of \$265 million over a 5-year period.

A summary of the major provisions of P.L. 88-156 follows:

1. It doubles the annual authorization for federal grants for maternal and child health services administered by the Children's Bureau under title V, part 1 of the Social Security Act over a period of 7 years in steps of \$5 million, from the present \$25 million to \$50 million for 1970 and subsequent years.
2. It provides identical increases in the authorization for federal grants for crippled children's services, administered by the Children's Bureau under title V, part 2 of the Social Security Act.
3. It authorizes a new 5-year program of grants to State or local health agencies for projects to provide necessary health care for expectant mothers who have, or are likely to have, conditions associated with childbearing that increase hazards to the health of the mothers or their infants.
4. It authorizes appropriations not to exceed \$8 million for any fiscal year for grants, contracts, or jointly financed cooperative arrangements for research projects to improve maternal and child health and crippled children's services.
5. It authorizes a one-time appropriation of \$2.2 million for grants to States to assist in developing plans for comprehensive State and community action to combat mental retardation. The federal share is limited to 75 percent of the cost of the State's proposed planning and related activities.

In commenting on this new legislation, Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger, Chief of the Children's Bureau of DHEW's Welfare Administration, said that expansion of the Children's Bureau programs under the act should help reduce the incidence of mental retardation caused by premature birth and complications associated with child bearing; increase the number of prenatal clinics in neighborhoods where they will be more accessible to the pregnant women who particularly need them; reduce overcrowding in public hospitals; and increase the opportunities for child health supervision and better services for crippled children.

CONSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR MENTAL RETARDATION
AND MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES

Legislation authorizing construction grants for mental retardation research centers and facilities and also for community mental health center facilities was signed by President Kennedy on October 31 (P.L. 88-164). This act also authorizes a program of training grants for teachers of handicapped children.

This legislative proposal cleared Congress on October 21st when the Senate-House conferees agreed on a substitute amendment for S 1576 and their report was adopted by both Houses. As enacted this new law authorizes appropriations totalling \$329 million - \$91 million above the House figure and \$94 million below the Senate figure for construction grants. The Senate provision authorizing \$427 million for initial staffing of mental health centers was deleted in conference. (See Washington Bulletin for June 10, 1963, for summary of Senate-passed bill.)

This act carries the title, "Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963." It authorizes: grants to assist in the construction of mental retardation research centers and facilities (title I); grants to assist in constructing community mental health centers (title II); and grants for the training of teachers of mentally retarded and other handicapped children (title III).

Throughout the act, "construction" includes construction of new buildings, expansion, remodeling, and alteration of existing buildings, and initial equipment. Architect's fees are included, but not the cost of off-site improvements or of land acquisitions.

The appropriations authorized for each program are shown, by fiscal years, in the accompanying table.

Authorizations under P.L. 88-164
(In millions of dollars)

Program	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	Total
Mental retardation:						
Research centers	6.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	....	26.0
Facilities:						
University Grants . . .	5.0	7.5	10.0	10.0	....	32.5
State grants . . . . .	....	10.0	12.5	15.0	30.0	67.5
Subtotal, title I . . .	11.0	25.5	28.5	31.0	30.0	126.0
Mental Health centers: Construction.	....	35.0	50.0	65.0	....	150.0
Subtotal, title II . . . .	....	35.0	50.0	65.0	....	150.0
Teachers of handicapped:						
Training grants	13.0	14.5	19.5	....	....	47.0
Research and demonstrations	2.0	2.0	2.0	....	....	6.0
Subtotal, title III . . .	15.0	16.5	21.5	....	....	53.0
Grand Total	26.0	77.0	100.0	96.0	30.0	329.0

Source: House Report No. 862, October 21, 1963.

Construction Grants: Mental Retardation Facilities (Title I)

The construction grants provided for in title I fall into three categories:

(1) Project grants to public or nonprofit institutions to assist in the construction of centers for research on mental retardation and related aspects of human development; (2) Project grants for construction of university affiliated facilities for the mentally retarded; (3) State allotments under State plans for construction of facilities *for* the mentally retarded.

A "facility for the mentally retarded" is described as one specially designed for the diagnosis, treatment, education, training, or custodial care of the mentally retarded, including facilities for training specialists. Sheltered workshops are included only if they are part of facilities which provide comprehensive services for the mentally retarded.

Under project grants to public or nonprofit institutions for construction of research centers, the act specifies "facilities for research, or research *and* related purposes, relating to human development, whether biological, medical, social, or behavioral, which may assist in finding the causes and means of prevention of mental retardation." Applications go to the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for approval.

Project grants for construction of university-affiliated facilities look toward "a full range of inpatient and outpatient services for the mentally retarded and facilities which will aid in demonstrating provision of specialized services for the diagnosis and treatment, education, training, or care of the mentally retarded or in the clinical training of physicians and other specialized personnel." Applications for these grants should be submitted for approval to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and must be in accordance with regulations to be issued by the Secretary.

The federal share of the construction cost for project grants under both categories must not exceed 75 percent of the total cost.

Matching grants to States are authorized on a formula basis for construction of public and other nonprofit facilities for the mentally retarded. The State plan, to be approved by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, must set forth a construction program based on a statewide inventory of existing facilities and survey of need; and must meet various other specified requirements.

Construction Grants: Mental Health Centers (Title II)

Matching grants for the construction of community mental health centers will be made under State plans approved by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare on a formula basis. General regulations are to be issued by the Secretary within 6 months of the enactment of the law, after consultation with the Federal Hospital Council and the National Advisory Mental Health Council.

A State wishing to take advantage of this provision must, among other requirements, designate a single State agency to administer the plan; provide for a designation of a State advisory council which shall include representatives of nongovernment

organizations or groups and of State agencies concerned with planning, operation, or utilization of such facilities, and persons familiar with local needs; and establish minimum standards for the maintenance and operation of centers receiving federal aid.

One aim of the program is to reduce substantially the number of persons in large centralized public mental institutions. Dr. Robert H. Felix, Director of the Public Health Services' National Institute of Mental Health, describes the community mental health center as a "facility designed to provide preventive services, early diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness, on both an inpatient and outpatient basis, and to serve as a base for aftercare of discharged hospital patients."

Teacher Training (Title III)

This title amends P.L. **85-926 (1958)** by providing for traineeships (fellowships are already covered) for teachers of mentally retarded and other handicapped children. It authorizes the Commissioner of Education, DHEW, to make grants to public or other nonprofit institutions of higher learning to assist them in providing professional or advanced training for teachers and prospective teachers of handicapped children. Supervisors of such teachers, speech correctionists, and other specialists providing special services for education of handicapped children, or engaged in research in related fields are included in the provisions.

The phrase "mentally retarded children" in the **1958** Act is changed to "mentally retarded, hard of hearing, deaf, speech impaired, visually handicapped, seriously emotionally disturbed, crippled, or other health-impaired children" requiring special education. Teachers of deaf children, however, will not be included until after June **30, 1964**, when the current provision for training teachers of the deaf (P.L. **87-276**) will expire. Otherwise the provisions are effective for fiscal **1964**, which began July **1, 1963**.

The Commissioner of Education is also authorized to make grants for research or demonstration projects relating to education of mentally retarded and health-impaired children. These grants may be made to States, State or local educational agencies, public and non-profit institutions of higher learning, and other public or nonprofit private educational or research agencies and organizations.

Members of special or technical advisory committees or panels of experts, appointed by the Commissioner in connection with this title, are entitled to compensation not exceeding **\$75** per day, including travel time; also travel expenses and per diem while serving away from home.

Nonprofit private agency or organization defined

For purposes of this act, a nonprofit private agency or organization means an agency or organization no part of the net earnings of which inures, or may lawfully inure, to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

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